

# FAITH NEWS

## FAITH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



**ISSUE  
No.2**

*February 2024*

### **GOOD NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

**Pastor's Note  
Champions News  
Celebrate Recovery  
Turning Point**

### **MINISTRIES ABOUND**

#### **News from the Pastor's Desk....Note from Pastor Haley Akers**

Revelation 2:2-5 NKJV - "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent."

When Jesus speaks to the church of Ephesus he starts out with some encouraging words for them. Jesus says he knows all they have done, all the good works for the sake of spreading the gospel with integrity and preserving the message from those with false pretenses. Nevertheless, Jesus says, they have left their first love.

There are a couple of things God can't do...God can't stop existing...God is eternal...He's the Alpha and Omega. God can't lie...AND God can't be second. He wants to be your first. All throughout the Bible this has been an issue with God's people. Those that are part of the Chronological Bible Study have just finished the book of Exodus. After witnessing first hand the miraculous power of the Almighty and the length His love extends to His people, they turned to worshiping an idol when the going got tough.

He wants to be first...Because when we fail to prioritize God and make him first He assumes you must not think He is worthy of the number One spot. He wants us to make it a priority of our life to have a relationship with Him. Not just scheduling Him into our calendars where He conveniently fits in.

Jesus gives them instructions on how to get it right again. That's what I love about Him. He doesn't just leave us in our stupors, He's the Master Teacher. He says to the church in Ephesus and to us, Remember, Repent and Repeat. Go back and remember the passion you had for Him, when you couldn't get enough of His Word and presence. Then Jesus says to Repent. Acknowledge our sin, confess what we have made an idol in our lives by making Him second or even third and make the changes in our priorities make Him first.

Third Jesus says to "do the things you did at first", repeat what you did before when He was your first love. Repeating the prayer life you once held fast to, repeating the Bible study you were dedicated yourself to do every morning, repeating the service to others as Jesus did in His ministry.

Remember...Repent...Return. That is what we are going to do in our time this Lent season. Maybe you've never made Christ your first love. Maybe you've been coming to church...you've been part of the program...you've been part of the ministry but you've never allowed it to become a personal commitment to Jesus. The time is now. You can't afford to go one more moment without Him. How has it gone so far making everything else your first love..One thing I can guarantee is when you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior...when you repent of your sin and accept His free gift of salvation...there is no greater love. He already loves you..He already made you first when He died on the cross for the forgiveness of your sin..He's waiting for you.

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From Your Finance Chair:

Hello and Thank You to all who made special donations to our recent 2023 Advent Offerings at Christmas this past December. We were able to donate: \$155 to the Licking County Champions Network - \$155 to the Licking County Coalition of Care - \$205 to Newark's Salvation Army (Eastside) Food Pantry.

Since Easter is March 31, 2024, we will be taking up a Lenten/Easter offering again this year. The Offering will go to be divided between the Salvation Army Food Pantry and the Champions Network. Thank you to everyone who is able to give! ~ ~ Cheryl Deweese

### Turning Point -

Turning Point is up and running and has been successful so far at reaching people who do not know Christ. We have had a total of five services and there have been many people who have heard the Gospel message who do not know Christ as Lord. The altars have been full of people praying and seeking God. So far there have been 5 people who have made a profession of faith in Christ. ~ ~ Pastor Trey Freeman

### CELEBRATE RECOVERY -

Living in a broken world we all deal with life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits. No one has the ability, nor should they attempt to face their hurts on their own. Celebrate Recovery is a beautiful community of strugglers that courageously enter this safe and beautiful space to get honest about our pain, and the negative ways we may see ourselves, God and others. In this process we come to accept that some of the habits we may have developed to escape our pain has caused destruction in our life and those close to us.

Celebrate recovery is a biblically balanced approach to help bring sustainable recovery and healing to our hurts. It guides us toward new healthy truths and life-giving habits as we repair our broken relationships. Join more than 7 million hurting people across the globe who now walk in freedom through the power of Jesus Christ as we walk through the 8 principles of celebrate recovery based on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. There are over 35,000 churches currently with a Celebrate Recovery ministry. What are the components of Celebrate Recovery? 1) Large Group 2) Small Group 3) Step Study 4) Sponsors 5) Accountability Partners.

<https://www.celebraterecovery.com/>

### Spiritual Warfare - "How to Anoint Your Home"

Ephesians 6:12 - "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Step 1: Have anointing oil ready that has been blessed, anointed and prayed over. (Pastor Haley gave each of us a vial in January). The anointing oil represents the Holy Spirit, God's favor and blessing, and is a representation of the Blood of Jesus.

Step 2: Pray over your home: "Father God, we come to You thanking You for this day, for all that You are and all that You do. Lord, we dedicate our home to You. You are our shelter, we shall not want. You are our Rock and Steady Foundation. All that we have belongs to You. Lord, all we possess is Yours. I declare, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Lord, bless this home; let this be a place where Your Spirit can dwell. The gates of hell shall not prevail in this home. We evict every demon and cancel every spell. You have given us the keys to the kingdom of Heaven. You have given us the keys to this home. You have granted us access to Your throne. We are not alone. Send Your angels to keep watch over each and every one. Let Your kingdom come and Your will be done in this home. Every battle we will win for Your glory in this home. Grant us Your peace, grant us Your blessings. We yield this home to Your anointing. We plead the blood of Jesus, from the rooftop to the bottom of the foundation. We declare Your hedge of protection is all around this property. May this be a house of worship. Use this home for Your purpose. Help us to be a blessing with what You have blessed us with. Lord, be magnified in this dwelling. In Jesus' name. AMEN!

Step 3: Engage in the act of anointing your home. - Anoint all windows, doors, and mirrors in your house. These are points of entry. - Anoint the points of entry with the oil in the form of a cross.

### Licking County Champions Network

The Champions Network continues to build bridges to freedom through Jesus Christ in our community. As of the first of February 69% of both women and men that we work with are sustaining their sobriety. That's the highest percentage ever, God is really moving. We also put 7 people in treatment, which is the highest single month total for us. We began the Workforce Development component of the Champions Network in January to help the the group seek and obtain employment. Through this component we were able to complete over 60 hours of work with 4 different individuals and 1 was interviewed and employed at Taco Bell.

In January we served over 260 meals and delivered 800 lbs of produce to 32 families in need, handed out several hats, gloves, thermal socks and undergarments. In closing we want to send out a special shout out Ralph Chastain, one of our members, who has created our new website and it is amazing. The link is: [lickingcountychampions.org](http://lickingcountychampions.org)